THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI RAJESH PILOT): As per audited accounts, the demurrage income of different major ports during the years 1983-84, 1984-85 and 1985-86 is as follows:—

(Rs. in lakhs)

Name of Port	1983-84	1984-85	1985-86
Bombay	3491·63	5553·82	6219·24
Calcutta	2868·00	4552·00	2502·00
Cochin	80·17	109·54	82·05
Kandla	14·16	36·83	26·56
Madras	418·41	876·82	1019·57
Mormugao	Nil	0·19	0·23
New Mangalore	1·41	3·67	9·65
Paradip	0·24	0·05	0·70
Tuticorin	11·90	8·58	4·68
Visakhapatnam	462·52	597·76	450·40

609. [*Transferred to the 30th April, 1987*]

Adverse effect on Small Newspapers due to postal hike

610. SHRIMATI KRISHNA KAUL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the hike in postal and telecommunication rates has adversely affected small and medium newspapers; and

(b) if so, the steps Government are taking to provide relief to such papers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SANTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) and (b) *POSTAL TARIFF*: The tariff structure of various postal services is adjusted from time to time keeping in view the cost of postal operation. Even after increase of the rate of postage on registered newspapers from 5 paise to 15 paise, the annual deficit in running the registered newspapers service is Rs. 16.43 crores approximately. Thus the service subsidised to this extent.

Telecom-Tariff: While the tariff for telegraph circuits provided to general public has been revised to Rs. 125 per Km. per annum for 50 bauds and Rs. 200 per Km. per annum for 75 bauds the rates for the Press including newspapers and news agencies are fixed at only 50 per cent of these charges. As the cost of operation and maintenance has gone up substantially and the increase in tariff has been kept to the minimum, further concession is not possible.

Outbreak of Measles in Gujarat

611. SHRIMATI KRISHNA KAUL: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether measles have claimed the lives of ninety children in Rajkot

and Junagarh Districts of Gujarat recently; and

(b) if so, what are the causes for the spread of this disease and what remedial steps has been taken by the State/Central Government to check the furher spreading of the disease?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (KUMARI SAROJ KHAPARDE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The spread of the diseases was due to epidemic wave cycle and deaths have been attributed to untreated post measles complications, or treated by following traditional beliefs. Although intensifying awareness campaign extensive measles vaccination work has also been undertaken. So far 7000 children in Rajkot and 3861 children in Junagarh have been immunised against measles. Among the 10 district in Gujarat State as being covered under UIP, Rajkot stands included. The remaining districts will be covered by 1990. Measles vaccination has been introduced under the universal immunisation Programme from 1985-86 and it is proposed to cover all the infants in the country by 1990.

Silent Post Office Saving Bank Account

612. SHRI J. P. GOYAL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the total number of Saving Bank Accounts which have been rendered 'silent' so far under New Delhi Post Office and the General Post Office, Delhi as a result of the amendment made by the Government in the Post Office Saving Bank Accounts Rules 1981 making the period for keeping the account running from six years to three years;

(b) the reasons for this sudden change; and

(c) whether the difficulties to be faced by the account holders were taken into account before taking this decision?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SANTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) Total number of Saving Bank Accounts rendered silent are as under:—

(i) New Delhi Head Post Office—49258.

(ii) Delhi General Post Office —46306.

(b) Savings accounts are treated 'silent' to ensure safety of depositors accounts which are inoperative for long spells of time. Extra care is, therefore, taken for permitting transactions, specially withdrawals, only in genuine cases. The earlier system for treating savings accounts as silent after six years was reviewed critically by the Department of Posts as this long period threw lot of unnecessary avoidable burden of work in SB branches of Post Offices, resulting in sizeable accounts of Government expenditure in balancing the accounts. Accordingly, a proposal for reducing the period from six years to three years was processed with the Ministry of Finance which issued the amendment to P.O. Saving Accounts Rules, 1981.

(c) There is provision for revival of Savings accounts without difficulty as and when the account holder applies for the same. There is hardly any likelihood of difficulty to regular depositors in the existing system.